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THE

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

AUDITORS, SELECTMEN,

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

TOWN OF HOOKSETT,

For the year ending March 1, 1866.

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MANCHESTER, N. H.  
MIRROR STEAM JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.  
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## AUDITORS' REPORT.

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### Expenditures from March, 1865, to March, 1866.

Paid State Tax, 1865, .....	\$3,090 00
County Tax, 1865, .....	850 26
School District, No. 1, .....	116 72
"      "      "      2, .....	177 72
"      "      "      3, .....	76 64
"      "      "      4, .....	102 16
"      "      "      5, .....	72 04
"      "      "      6, .....	65 80
"      "      "      7, .....	145 29
"      "      "      8, .....	21 73
"      "      "      9, .....	86 20
Selectmen's bills for 1864, .....	331 80

### AID TO SOLDIERS' FAMILIES.

Mrs. J. E. Jewell, ...\$20 00	James Morrill, .....\$60 00
H. Gould, ..... 74 00	Ellen Eastman, ..... 32 00
Mary J. Lawrence, ... 26 00	Helen H. Putnam, .... 80 00
Victoria Terrier, ..... 47 60	Margaret C. Poor, .... 64 00
Martha Lincoln, ..... 34 67	Rolinda Rowell, ..... 16 00
Mrs. Mahoney, ..... 24 00	Aldin George, ..... 16 00
Armenia George, ..... 48 00	Mrs. F. D. Ordway, .. 42 00
Mrs. J. B. Titus, ..... 40 00	John Quimby, ..... 58 67
E. T. Wentworth, .... 32 47	Mayhew Clark, ..... 8 00
James McDuff, ..... 8 00	George Lane, ..... 12 00
Jane R. Robinson, .... 24 00	E. F. Quimby, ..... 24 00

### PAID VOLUNTEERS.

Samuel Harris, .....\$400 00	Joseph G. Johnson, ..\$350 00
Euesell Ewell, ..... 350 00	

### ABATEMENT OF TAX OF 1863.

Samuel Head, .....	7 75
Thomas J. Otterson, .....	7 26



## ABATEMENT OF TAX OF 1864.

Hiram Simonds,.....	9 50
Thomas J. Otterson, illegal tax to Hall,.....	8 04
Thomas J. Otterson, illegal tax to Kimball,.....	9 38
Daniel W. Merrill,.....	3 25

## ABATEMENT OF TAX OF 1865.

Charles H. Robie, on money in bank,.....	17 00
Amos G. Prescott, " " .....	17 00
Thomas B. Wattles, " " .....	8 50
Hiram B. Otterson, " " .....	6 80
Eliza A. Prescott, " " .....	17 00
Mary Remington, " " .....	8 50
Matthew Cate, " " .....	11 90
John Toney, on wood land,.....	5 10
Stephen C. Merrill,.....	1 06
Mary G. Gale,.....	21 20
Jesse Smith,.....	6 99
William A. Osgood, on money at interest,.....	17 00
Henry T. Chickering,.....	8 47
J. S. Cheney,.....	8 48
George Davis,.....	8 50
Horace Gage,.....	8 50
A. G. Fuller,.....	4 24
Nathaniel Mitchell,.....	9 01
Marvin Leffingwell,.....	4 08
Samuel Thompson,.....	4 08
Rodney Martin,.....	2 08
T. J. Otterson,.....	17 00

## ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Joseph Watson, repairing bridge and cutting bushes on Chester turnpike,.....	11 25
John H. Rand, breaking roads, 1864,.....	13 75
E. T. Wentworth, labor on highway,.....	16 00
D. Wilson, labor on Hooksett road,.....	29 15
John Farnum, labor on highway,.....	1 50
Enoch Johnson, labor on highway,.....	20 00
Jas. H. Morrill, land and damages for new highway,	50 00
Stephen C. Merrill, " " " " .....	25 00
George Davis, use of land for highway,.....	5 00
William P. Farmer, building new highway,.....	154 25
M. L. Watson, labor on Chester turnpike,.....	26 25
Thos. J. Cate, land and damages for new highway, ..	50 00
Dana Rowe, labor on highway,.....	24 00

Otis Allen, plank for bridge, J. L. Garland,.....	9 60
M. D. Stokes, stone for bridge, E. E. Goodale,.....	10 00
Mr. Crombie, surveying new highway,.....	3 00
Harvey Dennison, lighting bridge,.....	25 00
Harvey Dennison, repairs on Hooksett bridge,.....	3 25
Hiram B. Otterson, highway tax paid in labor,.....	191 80
Joseph T. Goss, oil for Hooksett bridge,.....	13 70

## SUPPORT OF PAUPERS OFF THE FARM.

James Ordway and wife,.....	27 70
Joseph Fuller, repairing shoes, 1863,.....	75
Joseph T. Goss, goods furnished James Lakin,.....	41 49
Joseph T. Goss, " " Katy Powell,.....	5 87
Joseph T. Goss, " " Mrs. Dorway,.....	5 31
Joseph T. Goss, " " Benj. French,.....	2 22
Horace Gage, medical attendance on Eliza Keys, County charge,.....	14 00
George Stevens, taking care of Eliza Keys, County charge,.....	15 00

## PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON NOTES, AND NOTES PAID.

Nathaniel Otterson,.....	12 00
Manchester Bank, 1 year's interest on \$3,700,.....	222 00
Manchester Bank, note and interest,.....	1,203 80
Mary Ann Blanchard, interest,.....	36 00
Eliza A. Prescott, " .....	21 00
Sydney D. McAfee, " .....	12 00
Martin L. Otterson, note and interest,.....	551 73
W. L. Swett, note and interest,.....	1,097 10
Joseph T. Goss, interest on note, \$ 600,.....	36 00
Joseph Wilkins, " " 1500,.....	90 00
Mendel Sampson, " " 1000,.....	60 00
Adaline Sampson, " " 200,.....	12 00
Emeline Messer, " " 100,.....	6 00
Eliza A. Prescott, " " 1000,.....	60 00
Sally Stevens, " " 1000,.....	60 00
David Ordway, " " 1500,.....	90 00
Nathaniel Otterson, " " 300,.....	18 00
William P. Farmer, " " 2000, up to Feb. 8, 1866,.....	183 60
Fanny Brown, interest on note, \$1500,.....	90 00
N. H. Savings Bank, two notes, 2700,.....	162 90
Manchester Bank, note and interest,.....	2,653 89
Nathaniel Head, note,.....	300 00
Hall Wilkins, interest on two notes, \$2500,.....	150 00



## MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

Ira Rowe, for watering place, 1864,.....	3 00
Martin L. Otterson, collecting taxes for 1864,.....	117 27
John Riley, 1 year's salary, poor farm agent,.....	225 00
Chas. W. James, bounty voted by the town,.....	100 00
James Ordway, cow for the poor farm,.....	50 00
Insurance Co., insurance on Hooksett bridge,.....	30 00
Insurance Co., buildings at poor farm,.....	10 39
John H. Rand, services as Selectman, 1864,.....	2 00
James Ordway, labor at the poor farm,.....	7 00
Morrill, Silsby & Co., blank books,.....	21 25
Albert Davis, money assessed in school district No. 2,	14 00
Sumner Ordway, part pay as agent at poor farm, '65,	75 00
Fogg & Hadley, printing reports for 1864,.....	32 00
Farmers' Insurance Co., assessment on old policy,..	4 86
George, Foster & Sanborn,.....	166 92
O. T. Marshall, glass for town house,.....	3 77
Henry S. Way, sawing wood for town house,.....	1 00
Joseph T. Goss, services as town Treasurer for 1864,	25 00
Joseph T. Goss, stamps for notes,.....	2 00
George A. Robie, services as town Clerk for 1865,..	20 50
Nathaniel Mitchell, watering place,.....	3 00
John Harvey, watering place 3 years,.....	9 00
John W. Prescott, $\frac{1}{2}$ cord wood for town house,....	2 25
Harvey Dennison, writing and procuring reports for 1864,.....	6 00
Harvey Dennison, at Concord and expenses for vol- unteers, .....	19 50
John B. Clarke, notices in paper,.....	4 00
Harvey Dennison, cash paid for Collector's book,..	1 80
Harvey Dennison, " " " highway books,....	1 25
Harvey Dennison, " " Asa Fowler,.....	3 00
Bills paid on account of paupers off the farm,.....	13 25
Cash " " " County charge,....	5 75
Cash " for stamps,.....	75
P. Haley, on account of Mrs. Dorway,.....	1 50
H. Dennison, settling with families for State aid,...	15 00
Hiram Austin, ——— land of Charles Quimby,....	1 00
John L. Garland, " " " Mary Gale,.....	1 00
Harvey Dennison, glass and repairing bridge lamps,.	3 85
Register of Probate, for notices,.....	1 00
John L. Garland, time and expenses for vols., 1864,	25 00
John L. Garland, cash paid J. Lakin, pauper, .....	3 00
Josiah Clark, services as Supt. School Com. for 1865,	50 00

Horace Gage, Auditor for 1863-4-5,.....	7 50
O. T. Marshall, Auditor for 1864-5,.....	5 00
Lomanda Davis, for board and clothing child from March, 1865, to March, 1866,.....	52 00
L. Converse, for board and clothing child from March, 1865, to March, 1866,.....	47 00
Amount in hands of Treasurer,.....	2,106 36
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	\$17,621 12

### Receipts of Treasurer.

Amount in treasury March 1, 1865,.....	\$2,786 14
John Riley, agent of poor farm, 1864,...	20 59
Martin L. Otterson, tax list, 1864,.....	494 42
John W. Prescott, tax list, 1862,.....	7 75
Josiah Clark, tax list, 1863,.....	100 00
H. B. Otterson, tax list, 1865,.....	8,201 30
Selectmen, .....	2,750 00
County of Merrimack, 1864,.....	179 56
Concord Railroad tax, 1864,.....	403 50
Adaline Langley, lot No. 43 in cemetery,	3 00
Thomas J. Otterson, highway tax,.....	75 00
Savings Bank tax,.....	195 61
State Treasurer, for State aid,.....	1,706 17
Railroad tax for 1865, .....	501 32
Merrimack County,.....	69 38
Literary fund,.....	24 00
Hiram Kimball estate,.....	11 25
Sumner Ordway, agent of poor farm,....	96 09
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	\$17,621 12

We have examined the accounts of Joseph T. Goss, Treasurer of the town of Hooksett, and find the same well vouched, and the foregoing is a true statement thereof.

O. T. MARSHALL, }  
HORACE GAGE, } *Auditors.*

Hooksett, March, 1866.



## SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

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### Liabilities of the Town.

Agent of poor farm, due on salary,.....	\$175 00
Mary E. Kimball, note, interest due April 1, 1866,...	2,000 00
Sophia Chandler, note, interest paid to April 15, 1865,	1,000 00
Sophia Chandler, note, interest paid to Feb. 23, 1866,	1,000 00
J. H. Wilkins, note, interest paid to March, 1865,...	1,500 00
Fanny Brown, note, interest paid to Feb., 1865,.....	1,500 00
N. H. Savings Bank, note, paid to Feb., 1866,.....	700 00
N. H. Savings Bank, note, paid to Feb., 1866,.....	2,000 00
Joseph Wilkins, note, interest to Nov., 1865,.....	1,500 00
Eliza A. Prescott, note, interest to Jan., 1866,.....	1,000 00
Mendell Sampson, two notes, interest paid,.....	1,000 00
William P. Farmer, note, interest paid to Feb., 1866,	2,000 00
William P. Farmer, note, one year's interest due,....	1,060 00
Joseph T. Goss, note, interest paid,.....	600 00
Henry E. Robie, note and interest,.....	212 00
Ellis Robie, note and interest,.....	106 00
David Ordway, interest paid,.....	1,500 00
Sally Stevens, interest paid,.....	1,000 00
Mary A. Blanchard, note,.....	600 00
Sydney D. McAfee, note and interest,.....	318 00
George M. L. Lane, note,.....	400 00
Amos G. Prescott, note,.....	300 00
Nathaniel Otterson, note,.....	300 00
Margaret Otterson, note and interest. ....	530 00
Emeline Messer, note,.....	100 00
Adaline Sampson, note,.....	200 00
Eliza A. Prescott, note,.....	350 00
Milton McCoy, note,.....	500 00
Levi Colby, note,.....	1,500 00
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	23,951 00
Selectmen's bills for 1863, .....	163 40
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	\$24,114 40



## AMOUNT DUE THE TOWN.

John W. Prescott, collector for 1862,.....	\$8 25
Josiah Clark, collector for 1863,.....	113 01
Martin L. Otterson, collector for 1864,....	356 76
State, for aid to soldiers' families,.....	449 41
United States, bounty for volunteers,.....	3,098 00
For support of Davis child,.....	52 00
Hiram B. Otterson, collector for 1865,....	947 18
Amount in treasury,.....	2,106 36
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	7,130 97

Balance against the town, ..... \$16,983 43

## EXPENDITURES OF THE POOR HOUSE.

Joseph T. Goss, store bill,.....	\$200 04
John Toney, use of horse to mill and plow,.....	75
Peddler, for tin ware,.....	77
Fresh fish, 56c.; Nat. Otterson, veal, \$2.20,.....	2 76
J. C. Otterson, 2 bush. rye, \$3.50; one pig, \$4,....	7 50
One cream pot, \$1.25; Medicine, 25c.,.....	1 50
John Young, one pig,.....	4 00
One cream strainer,.....	35
J. C. Otterson, veal, \$1.95; mowing, \$2,.....	3 95
J. C. Otterson, horse and wagon to Bow,.....	75
Moving County paupers to County farm,.....	5 10
Paid for threshing, \$4.90; Repairing shoes, 50c.,...	5 40
W. H. Otterson, 4 days' chopping,.....	5 00
Enoch Holt, for axe,.....	80
Grinding meal, 89c.; one comb 15c.,.....	1 04
Dr. Gage, one visit to pauper,.....	1 00
Enoch Holt, for labor,.....	50
Groceries, .....	6 50
Matthew Gault, for apples,.....	50
Geo. A. Robie, blacksmith work,.....	8 75
One rake, 75c.; Whip lash, 25c.,.....	1 00
Nathaniel H. Otterson, one pig,.....	4 00
Nathaniel H. Otterson, cutting rye,.....	1 50
Nathaniel H. Otterson, " " .....	1 50
Nathaniel H. Otterson, getting in hay,.....	75
Martin L. Otterson, butchering,.....	1 00
James Ordway, haying,.....	7 00
Paid for hops,.....	35
John Young, for breaking cultivator,.....	35
Q. C. Otterson, corn,.....	58
Q. C. Otterson, horse to mill,.....	40

Q. C. Otterson, one bushel rye,.....	1 40
Baker, for crackers, .....	25
Paid for dinner,.....	25
James Ordway, cow, .....	50 00
Paid town Treasurer,.....	116 68

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 \$443 97

### RECEIPTS OF THE TOWN FARM.

For labor,.....	\$58 03
For rags,.....	37
John Riley, rooster,.....	34
Rags and old iron,.....	40
Mr. Wilson, one calf,.....	8 00
Mr. Wilson, one calf,.....	8 75
Mr. Wilson, one calf,.....	7 00
Mr. Wilson, hens,.....	4 00
Potatoes, .....	56
S. Batchelder, potatoes,.....	4 00
Benj. J. Gile, " .....	1 50
William Holt, " .....	60
One peck beans,.....	75
Samuel Goss, straw,.....	25
Jenny Holt, one peck peas,.....	25
Peter Rowell, use of cart,.....	25
Hiram Hill, butter,.....	85
Parker Farmer, butter,.....	33
H. Bonney, $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel peas,.....	75
David Ordway, $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel early potatoes,...	50
Nathaniel Otterson, fresh pork,.....	1 00
Martin L. Otterson, one hide,.....	5 35
Head boy, chickens,.....	25
Received for use of boar,.....	13 00
Mrs. Johnson, meat,.....	60
Stranger, butter,.....	72
James Hunt, hay,.....	5 40
Harvey Dennison, hay,.....	10 00
Sumner Ordway, hay,.....	3 00
Sumner Ordway, $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel oats,.....	50
Mr. Chandler, eggs,.....	1 52
Received for milk,.....	1 53
Received for soap,.....	23
Joseph T. Goss, 60 bushels oats,.....	39 00
" " " 1 " peas, .....	1 50
" " " 36 $\frac{1}{4}$ pounds cheese,.....	6 57



Joseph T. Goss, hay, .....	43 46	
" " " 9½ bushels potatoes, .....	9 50	
" " " 66 dozen eggs, .....	15 75	
" " " 167½ pounds butter, .....	59 47	
" " " 45¼ " ham, .....	8 53	
" " " 40 " lard, .....	12 00	
" " " 261 " leaf, .....	31 32	
John Riley, sundries, .....	20 59	
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	\$388 27	
Treasury, .....	55 70	
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		\$443 97

## INVOICE OF PROPERTY AT TOWN FARM.

8 tons hay, \$160; 1 ton straw, \$8, .....	\$168 00
5 cattle, \$470; 13 fowls, \$13; 3 shoats, \$75, .....	558 00
5½ bush. beans, \$13.75; 1 pk. peas, 50c, .....	14 25
1 pk. grass seed, \$1.50; 7 bush. oats, \$4.40, .....	5 90
8 bush. corn, \$10; 26 flour barrels, \$4.33, .....	14 33
Farming tools, \$130; ½ M. lumber, \$10, .....	140 00
40 bush. potatoes, \$30; ½ bbl. beef, \$14, .....	44 00
1½ bbl. pork, \$66; 60 lbs. chops and hucks, \$7.50, ....	73 50
2 bush. turnips, \$1; 1 bush. beets, 75c, .....	1 75
1 bush. parsnips, 75c; cider cask, \$2, .....	2 75
1½ bbl. soap, \$7.50; 2 bush. early potatoes, \$2, .....	9 50
6 pork barrels, \$4.50; 50 lbs. cheese, \$10, .....	14 50
30 lbs. butter, \$13.50; 1 gal. pickles, 50c; ½ gal. vine- gar, 20c, .....	14 20
10 lbs. sausages, \$2.30; 75 lbs. ham, \$15, .....	17 30
8 lbs. tallow, \$1.33; 60 lbs. lard, \$15, .....	16 33
10 lbs. pumpkin, \$1.67; 8 lbs. candles, \$1.60, .....	3 27
10 lbs. pie meat, \$1; ½ bush. salt, 45c, .....	1 45
2 bushels corn meal, \$2.50; 1½ bushels rye meal, \$2.25, ..	4 75
1 bbl. flour, \$11; beds and bedding, \$137.50, .....	148 50
Household furniture, \$90; Crockery ware, \$20; .....	110 00
Groceries, \$5; tinware, \$16; 1 cask of lime, \$3.20, ..	24 20
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	\$1,386 48

EXPENDITURES FOR SUPPORT OF PAUPERS AT  
TOWN FARM.

Agent's salary one year, .....	250 00
Interest on cost of farm, .....	150 00
Invoice of stock and produce, 1864, .....	1,560 80
Amount received from treasury, .....	55 70
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	2,016 50

Deduct invoice of stock and produce on hand,	1,386 48	
Amount received from County,.....	30 28	
Amount paid treasury,.....	116 68	
		1,433 44

Making expenses of paupers at the poor farm,.. \$582 06

#### INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED AT THE FARM.

Noah Lawrence,.....	7 weeks.	John H. Clay,.....	17 weeks.
Ephraim Eastman, ...	7 "	Nicholas Doloff,....	52 "
James Kemp,.....	7 "	James Prescott,....	52 "
James Otterson,....	52 "	Sally Davis,.....	44 "
Mehitable Otterson,..	52 "	Mrs. Lakin and three	
Susan Abbott,.....	52 "	children,.....	36 "
Frank Clay,.....	17 "	Transients, .....	1 "
Total,.....	396 weeks.		

HARVEY DENNISON, } *Selectmen*  
MARTIN L. OTTERSON, } *of*  
DAVID A. KIMBALL, } *Hooksett.*

Town of Hooksett, to Harvey Dennison,		Dr.
1865.		
March,	1 day to Manchester on town business, .....	\$ 2 50
April,	5 " taking invoice and expenses,.....	12 50
"	$\frac{1}{2}$ " on wood land,.....	1 25
"	3 " regulating invoice,.....	7 50
"	2 " making taxes,.....	5 00
"	$\frac{1}{2}$ " to Manchester,.....	1 25
"	2 " making surveyor's warrants,.....	5 00
"	1 " copying Collector's book, .....	2 50
May,	1 " to Concord and expenses,.....	3 50
July,	1 " to look out new highway,.....	2 50
Sept.,	$\frac{1}{2}$ " to attend jury meeting,.....	1 25
"	1 " to lay out new highway, .....	2 50
"	1 " on land of Mary Gale, .....	2 50
"	$\frac{1}{2}$ " regulating jury box,.....	1 25
"	3 " copying invoice,.....	7 50
Feb.,	1 " to Concord to settle County bills,.....	3 50
"	1 " at Concord and expenses,.....	3 50
"	1 " making warrants and check list,.....	2 50
"	1 " settling accounts,.....	2 50
"	$\frac{1}{2}$ " regulating check list,.....	1 25
		\$71 75



## Town of Hooksett, to Martin L. Otterson,

Dr.

$\frac{1}{2}$ day hiring agent poor farm,.....	\$1 50
Cash paid for invoice book,.....	40
5 days taking invoice and expenses,.....	15 00
$\frac{1}{2}$ " poor farm,.....	50
$2\frac{1}{2}$ " regulating invoice,.....	5 00
$\frac{1}{2}$ " to notify superintending school committee,.....	1 50
$\frac{1}{2}$ " making taxes,.....	4 00
1 " to Manchester to get pauper,.....	3 00
Making out surveyor's warrants and distributing them,.....	3 00
1 day distributing school money,.....	2 00
1 " to Concord and expenses,.....	2 00
Viewing road,.....	1 00
$\frac{1}{2}$ day on pauper case,.....	1 50
1 " Cate road and expenses,.....	3 00
$\frac{1}{2}$ " awarding land owners for road,.....	1 00
Drawing juror,.....	50
Perambulating line between Hooksett and Dunbarton,.....	1 00
" " " Hooksett and Bow,.....	2 00
Paid surveyor's bill,.....	2 00
$\frac{1}{2}$ day regulating jurors and drawing juror,.....	1 00
$\frac{1}{2}$ " on pauper case and expenses,.....	2 00
1 " on town business,.....	1 50
Making check list and warrant,.....	1 00
Settling accounts,.....	2 00
1 day at poor farm and town business,.....	2 00

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 \$59 40

## Town of Hooksett, to D. A. Kimball,

Dr.

1865.	
5 days taking invoice,.....	\$10 00
3 " regulating invoice,.....	6 00
1 " dividing school money,.....	2 00
$\frac{1}{2}$ " to Rowe's Corner on town business,.....	1 50
$\frac{1}{2}$ " to Hooksett on town business,.....	1 00
1 " to Rowe's Corner on road business,.....	2 50
$\frac{1}{2}$ " to Hooksett on town business,.....	1 00
$1\frac{1}{2}$ " running Bow line,.....	3 00
1 " to Manchester on pauper case,.....	2 00
$\frac{1}{2}$ " posting warrant,.....	1 00
$\frac{1}{2}$ " settling accounts,.....	1 00
1 " to town farm taking invoice, ..	2 00

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 \$33 00

## SCHOOL REPORT.

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The time has again arrived when your Committee is called on to render a report of the condition of the Schools in town. This part of their official acts is the most perplexing of all their duties. The reason for this is, there are so many little items to be summed up, rightly adjusted, and presented to the people in such a form as to arrest their attention and cause them to pause and reflect on the obligations they are under, and the fostering care they should have to our District Schools; for it is to them we are indebted in a great measure for the security of all we hold most sacred and dear. We shall try in our feeble way to arouse those reflective faculties, deeming it our duty so to do.

Year by year you select from your number an agent to look after the affairs of your schools, an agency of no small magnitude, as on the faithful discharge of the duties of his office depend the welfare, not only of your children, but that of yourselves also; and we should not fulfil our obligations to you should we discover a chance for improvement, and withhold the fact from you.

There are some methods in our system of schooling the young mind that seem to be not quite right. Our school-book authors have for a series of years been trying to simplify all our text book so as to make them easier to be understood; but in many cases, instead of simplifying, they have simply mystified, so that the pupil gets the mind filled with explanations instead of the subject matter intended to be learned. This, in our opinion, is decidedly wrong; for this method taxes only the retentive powers of the mind, leaving the reasoning, reflective faculties lying dormant and unexercised. What is the effect of this method of teaching? Simply this: First, you can employ an automaton for a teacher, providing always she knows the book, it matters but very little if she knows nothing except what she finds recorded inside her book covers. The teacher's or pupil's mind, (at least the reasoning powers,) are seldom brought into requisition, for the very reason that the books do the work for them. To say the most for this style of teaching, it produces very many Young Americas and but few Websters and Jacksons.

It is and has been the practice for a series of years, both with the teachers and Superintending School Committees, to press the scholars on in their studies so rapidly that in many cases the child's mental faculties have drawn so heavily on the physical powers as to incapacitate them for anything useful in after life, and bring them to a premature grave. This fault we have guarded against.

Speaking in general terms of our schools, it gives your Committee great pleasure to be able to say that they are generally in a very prosperous condition, many of them having made rapid strides in



the acquirement of knowledge. We found this especially to be the case where the school was under the care of a self-reliant, positive teacher; for such a teacher infuses the same spirit into the pupil. It is to be regretted that we have so few such instructors to direct our children up the hill of science. They are not like the guide-board, content simply to direct, but are anxious and willing to travel the journey with their pupils; pointing out a thousand times, if need be, the obstacles in their way, and learning them how to surmount them in the easiest and best manner.

We are also highly gratified in being able to report that not a single disturbance has occurred in any of the schools in town during the year. This improvement we cannot speak of in too high terms, for where anarchy and discord reign there can be little good accomplished, however good the teacher.

This state of things is due, in a great measure, to the parents having learned the very important fact, that it is far better to endure a slight or fancied wrong, than undertake to correct it themselves, especially when they have one chosen whose special business it is to attend to such matters. If we have, in some cases, appeared to be a little too strict, do not attribute it to the desire to exercise the authority vested in us, but rather to the strong desire we have to accomplish all the good we can.

Among other items of no small import are morality, virtue and truth. Happy, thrice happy, and blessed is that individual, community or nation, having these three traits in the ascendant. Those possessing them cannot go very far astray; and if, perchance, they should, in an unguarded moment, step aside from the path of rectitude, they soon discover their mistake and are back in the right position again. We, in our humble way, have taken pains to fix these homely truths in the minds of your children; we use the word homely for the reason that these virtues seem to be getting out of date, or rather unfashionable, throughout the whole world. In our own country we can trace their depreciation, in a great measure, to their neglect in the school room. We take pleasure in reporting to you that, with but one exception, our schools stand very high in this respect. That one exception will compare favorably with schools in other towns; for we have visited schools in other towns in order to compare notes.

Let us, fellow-townsmen, see to it that these heaven-born traits do not suffer from our neglect; better, far better would it be that our children should know not the alphabet, if it be at the expense of these cardinal points of their life charts. Without these to guide them through the mazy scenes of life, what would their lives be?—Go to the places of crime all over the land and they will give you an emphatic answer.

We know not how your children deport themselves at home as regards profanity, but it gives us unfeigned pleasure to say, that with our keen sense of hearing we have heard but two or three improper words used about the schools for the past year. It has been said, and we think truly, that no refined gentleman will allow himself to use profane language, and we have tried to fix this fact in the

minds of your children. How well we have succeeded, time alone can determine.

History, declamation and composition have received more attention than formerly, but there is still room for improvement in these branches of education. We have succeeded in introducing Greenleaf's series of arithmetics into all our schools, though there are works of other authors yet remaining, and we hope the work of eradication will be continued by our successor till the works of no other author are found in our schools, as we feel confident that a scholar who can master the series will be able to solve any mathematical problem propounded by any other author.

And now for a proposition: in District No. 6 the old school house is just ripe enough to be gathered to its fathers; that done, unite with District No. 8 and build a good house. Result—much good schooling, and a house full of smart, intelligent and happy children.

Districts Nos. 4, 7 and 9 will find it greatly to their advantage and interest to unite and form one district, and build a house that shall be an ornament to the village and town. You surely cannot put in the plea of inability. No. 2 should also build a new house. Your children are surely worthy of a better house than they now have. We put this plea in the name and for the interest of your children. Should you do as we suggest above, we think the advantage gained to the interest of education will be commensurate with the expense incurred; for if we put on to a child a dress of rags, he will feel and appear ragged. Put him into a ragged, dilapidated school house, and the exhibit will be the same. Reverse the process, in clothes and school houses, and their deportment will be reversed, also.

#### STATISTICS.

The town has furnished to the educational department five teachers. All have taught schools in town but one; two have taught out of town part of the year. There are four others prepared to teach, but prefer manual labor; reason, they get better pay. There are others preparing to teach, some of whom bid fair to become successful teachers. The only drawback to their success will be want of self-reliance and the exercise of their own native talent.

Whole number of scholars in town, 259

Number of boys, ..... 123

Number of girls, ..... 126

Number not attending school, ..... 14 reckoned in whole number.

Per cent. of attendance, ..... 81½—last year, 75 per cent.

Money appropriated for their education, ..... \$864 32

Average amount per scholar, ..... 3 52.7<sup>41</sup>/<sub>43</sub>

Valuation of school houses and lots in town, ..... 5,300 00

And now, in closing this report, allow us to beg of you to give this branch of our free institutions your best care, remembering always that we are forming the society we have got to live in when we are old and past the age of active life. Shall it be a peaceful, happy community, or a turbulent, noisy, ignorant community? 'Tis for us to determine which.

JOSIAH CLARK, S. S. COMMITTEE.

HOOKSETT, March 1, 1866.